

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125631
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 125631

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 5022 ACTION SECSTATE ISLAMABAD DATED
JUN 01:

QTE: S E C R E T SECTO 5022

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CIEC

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH PAKISTAN FOREIGN
MINISTER

1. PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED OPENED ONE
AND A HALF HOUR MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE BY STATING
US-PAKISTAN RELATIONS ARE AT A CROSSROADS. RELATIONS
COULD PROCEED TOWARD CONFRONTATION OR TOWARD RESTORA-
TION OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

2. AHMED THEN FOR 45 MINUTES REHEARSED LONG HISTORY
OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, EMPHASIZING FAMILIAR PAKISTANI
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 125631

GRIEVANCES, AND ALSO WHAT HE PORTRAYED AS PAKISTANI
FOREBEARANCE IN FACE OF DISAPPOINTMENTS. HE DESCRIBED:

-- PAKISTANI STAUNCHNESS IN FACE OF SOVIET THREATS
AFTER U-2 INCIDENT;

-- BHUTTO'S WILLINGNESS TO REMAIN IN CEN TO DESPITE HIS

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS IN '70, AND DEMONSTRABLE FACT THAT CENTO WAS OF NO VALUE IN '71 WAR WITH INDIA.

-- LONG DELAY IN US RESUMPTION OF ARMS SHIPMENTS, AND EVEN AFTER 1975, US STIPULATIONS THAT PURCHASES MUST BE FOR CASH, ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, AND FOR DEFENSIVE ARMS ONLY, ALTHOUGH US OBLIGATED UNDER 1959 BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE GRANT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID.

-- PAKISTANI DISMAY OVER US REMONSTRANCES ON FRENCH REPROCESSING CONTRACT WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS VERY LATE IN GAME AFTER FULL USG KNOWLEDGE OVER MANY YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH.

-- "EVIDENCE", WHICH HE SAID HE HAD WITH HIM IN SEVEN VOLUMINOUS FOLDERS, OF US SUPPORT FOR PNA OPPOSITION PARTIES. HE IMPLIED THAT RECENT INTRANSIGENCE OF PNA IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH BHUTTO WAS DUE TO PNA CERTAINTY OF US SUPPORT.

-- SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN VISITING BHUTTO WITH MESSAGES FROM SOVIET LEADERS, URGING PAKISTAN TO LEAVE CENTO IN RETURN FOR SOVIET ASSURANCES THEY "WOULD TAKE CARE OF PAKISTAN REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING MILITARY REQUIREMENTS."

-- BHUTTO HAD BEEN ADVISED BY HIS ASSOCIATES TO ISSUE A WHITE PAPER ON US INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, BUT BHUTTO HAD SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO DO SO.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 125631

3. SECRETARY SAID THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT USG WISHES TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. HE HAD ADMIRER PAKISTAN'S PEOPLE AND LEADERS, AND SHARED A DEEP CONVICTION THAT GOOD RELATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO BOTH COUNTRIES AS WELL AS TO STABILITY OF REGION. HE WAS SAD TO SEE THE TWO COUNTRIES DRIFTING APART. HE MIGHT NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL DETAILS OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECITAL OF HISTORY, BUT HE WAS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION SINCE JANUARY. THERE WAS TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NOTHING THAT IN ANY WAY SUPPORTED FOREIGN MINISTER'S ALLEGATIONS OF INTERVENTION IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR ELECTIONS. HE COULD NOT KNOW THE BASIS FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENTS, BUT WONDERED WHETHER "DISINFORMATION" ACTIVITIES BY A THIRD COUNTRY COULD BE THE BASIS FOR THE MISUNDERSTANDING.

4. SECRETARY URGED THAT BOTH SIDES PUT THE PAST BEHIND THEM. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE GOP ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE, EXCEPT TO DENY THEM. USG ARMS FLOW TO PAKISTAN HAD CONTINUED, EXCEPT FOR TEAR GAS. OUR HOPE WAS TO RESUME FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND AS BETWEEN THE TWO ROADS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DESCRIBED, USG WOULD CHOOSE TO MOVE ON THE ROAD AS FRIENDS AND ALLIES AND TO HEAL ANY WOUNDS.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID PAKISTAN WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER PAST A CLOSED CHAPTER. REPROCESSING ISSUE, HOWEVER, REMAINED A "YELLOW LIGHT" ON THAT ROAD. HE WARNED THAT DESPITE PRESSURES, NO PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER, BHUTTO OR ANY OTHER, COULD AGREE TO CANCEL (OR EVEN POSTPONE) REPROCESSING CONTRACT WITH FRANCE. HE SAID "IF REPROCESSING IS TO BE A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 125631

BARRIER, LET ME FACE IT NOW." HE ALSO SAID THAT IN THE EVENT THESE PRESENT TALKS ARE SATISFACTORY, PRIME MINISTER WOULD MAKE A SUITABLE PUBLIC STATEMENT AND WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTAIN AND RESTRAIN THE PUBLIC REACTIONS IN PAKISTAN TO KNOWLEDGE OF US INTERFERENCE, BUT THE LATTER WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT-- ESPECIALLY IF THERE WAS A NEW ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

6. SECRETARY SAID THAT SUCH A STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER SEEMED NECESSARY AND CONSTRUCTIVE, AND HE HOPED MOVEMENT COULD OCCUR ALONG THAT LINE. ON REPROCESSING, USG VIEWS WERE WELL KNOWN. USG HAD GIVEN UP REPROCESSING AND DEVELOPMENT OF BREEDER REACTORS, AND URGED OTHERS TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES BEFORE GOING DOWN SUCH COURSE, ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZED THAT EACH COUNTRY WOULD MAKE ITS OWN DECISION IN THE END. HE WOULD TALK TO PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO, HE WAS SURE, WOULD WISH TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US AND BUILD RELATIONS AS FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

7. IN CLOSING, FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED WITH SECRETARY'S SUGGESTED LINE TO THE PRESS--THAT THESE WERE FRANK AND FULL DISCUSSIONS THAT SECRETARY FOUND CONSTRUCTIVE; USG VALUES GOOD RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, WITH WHICH WE HAVE HAD LONG AND CLOSE RELATIONS; WE WOULD DO EVERYTHING ON OUR PART TO FOSTER THOSE RELATIONS; THE DISCUSSION COVERED THE WHOLE RANGE OF SUBJECTS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
VANCE UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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